

## CLAIMS

1. A suture band device comprising an elongated flexible band having first and second ends, a needle attached to the first end of the band, a  
5 buckle attached proximate the second end of the band for receiving and locking the band, characterised in that the buckle comprises a locking mechanism which enables the band to be locked at any point along its length and in that the locking mechanism comprises a wedging means.
- 10 2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism substantially prevents retrograde movement of the band through the buckle.
3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the wedging  
15 means is selected from a substantially spherical or cylindrical body.
4. A device according to claim 3 wherein the body has a roughened surface.
- 20 5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the band maintains substantially constant contact with the locking mechanism during threading.
6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the  
25 locking mechanism has a substantially smooth upper surface.
7. A method of approximating bone tissue comprising encircling said tissue with a suture band device as defined in any one of the preceding claims, threading a buckle of the suture banding device with a band of the  
30 suture banding device, and constricting the device around the bone tissue.